










Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)

CHICAGO'S WAV TAXICAB INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

-  **City's Accessibility Fund Fully Supports WAV Taxi Dispatch Service:** The Centralized WAV Taxicab Dispatch Service contracted vendor is Open Doors Organization (www.opentaxis.com). Anyone needing a WAV taxicab in Chicago can call Open Taxis (1-855-WAV-1010) or request a WAV taxicab via the Open Taxis App.
-  **Continued Financial Subsidy of WAVs:** The City has increased incentives to taxi medallion owners with up to a \$20K subsidy for the conversion costs of a WAV and a \$25K subsidy toward the purchase of a factory built WAV. The program continues to incentivize medallion owners to place a WAV taxicab into service versus a non-WAV taxicab.
-  **Voucher Incentive:** The City expanded the reimbursement program for WAV taxicab conversion costs and factory-built wheelchair taxicab purchases to include a voucher option. Medallion owners, who cannot secure the financing or fund the upfront costs, benefit from the voucher incentive.
-  **Vehicle Maintenance Incentive:** To support WAV taxicab owners and keep WAV taxicabs on the road longer, WAV taxicab owners will be eligible for an increased annual subsidy up to \$8,000 for vehicle maintenance.
-  **Incentives for Taxicab Drivers demonstrating Accessible Service Commitment:** The City offers reimbursement subsidies to taxicab drivers that pay to lease and drive WAV taxicabs that serve passengers who use wheelchairs. Those taxi drivers who pay to lease and operate WAV taxicabs are eligible to apply for a \$15 subsidy for a 12 hour lease / \$30 subsidy for a 24 hour lease. This subsidy will help offset their fuel costs for WAV taxicabs (minivans), as these vehicles are not fuel efficient and, as a result, cost more to fuel than the hybrid sedans.
-  **Supporting Mandated WAVs:** Amendments to the Taxicab Medallion License Holder Rules opened up the above listed subsidy to medallion owners mandated to place WAV taxicabs into service and to Taxicab Driver Excellence Award Winners required to place WAV taxicabs into service.
-  **Recognizing Exceptional Service:** BACP now recognizes 5 WAV taxicab drivers a year for outstanding service to the community and specifically to people with disabilities. Each Taxicab Driver Excellence Award winner is awarded a free taxicab medallion which is required to be a WAV taxicab for a minimum of 10 years.



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